

The electronic edition of Amateur Radio Newsline is transcribed from source material by Dale Cary. Newsline is reprinted here courtesy of Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, Editor of Newsline. Editorial comment should be E-mailed to newsline@mcimail.com or B.PASTERNAK@genie.geis.com. Voice or FAX to +1 805-296-7180.

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #98 - POSTED 11/13/93

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newsline is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call (213) 462-0008, (407) 259-4479, (708) 289-0423, (513) 275-9991, or (718) 353-2801. For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line at (805) 296-2407. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You
NEWSLINE

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

[848]

* * * * C L O S E D C I R C U I T A D V I S O R Y * * * *

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* The following is a closed circuit advisory and NOT for *
* transmission on amateur radio. We have received word from *
* our support fund administrator that the monies needed to *
* pay the our monthly bills is still dangerously low. *

* Yes, there are many sources of ham radio news, but for *
* the past sixteen and a half years, nobody has been able to *
* bring you this news as quickly and as accurately as *
* Newsline. The ham magazines have a two to four month lead *
* time. The various ham radio newsletters are at least a *
* week or two behind what's happening. While the ARRL has a *
* very fine audio news dissemination operation with it's W1AW *
* Official Bulletin Station, it is primarily geared to high *
* frequency operation. *

* Only Newsline brings up to the minute ham radio news *
* direct to you over your favorite repeater. That means you *
* can listen to it at home, in your car or even walking down *
* the street on your hand held radio. *

* But doing this costs money. It takes over \$700 a month *
* to keep Newsline alive. Recognizing this Dr. Norm Chalfin, *
* K6PGX established the Newsline Support Fund. It's kept *
* separate from Newsline and exists only to pay the week to *
* week operating expenses of the operation. It again needs *
* the support of all of you who want to see Newsline survive *
* so that these weekly bulletins can continue to air. *

* The address for the Newsline Support Fund is Post Office *
* Box 463, Pasadena, California 91102. Your assistance is *
* needed as soon as possible. We thank you all for your *
* ongoing generosity and support. *

* That ends the closed circuit. *

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REPEATER OWNER FINE QUESTIONED

There are some significant new developments in the case of New Jersey repeater owner Bill Krause WA2HDE. He's the ham who was issued a five thousand dollar fine because the FCC says that his Manhattan, New York repeater transmitter was heard on a frequency in an aeronautical communications band.

As we reported last week, the FCC claims that on August the 30th, its New York City Field Office received a complaint from the Federal Aviation Administration about a signal on 243 MHz that had appeared on receivers at two airports over the previous five days. Subsequent investigation by Engineer Alexander Zimney determined that the repeater was being operated by WA2HDE. The commission says that it issued the Notice of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture -- the FCC's term for a fine -- because of the potential of interference to aircraft emergency communications.

But there is something that the FCC's Zimney did not do. He issued the fine before bothering to notify Krause that he might be in violation of Part 97 rules. In other words, its possible that a commission employee in his apparent eagerness to please the FAA may have violated the federal governments own Administrative procedures Act. Rules that specifically call for a Notice of Violation to be issued and time given for a response before any punitive action is taken except in truly egregious cases. Note that the terms willful and malicious interference were not used by the FCC and therefore the incident cannot be legally interpreted as egregious. This is extremely important as you will hear.

To complicate matters even further, it turns out that Bill Krause is a person well known to the FCC. William A. Krause is one of the nations most respected broadcast engineers. He is the Chief Engineer of WABC AM, the clear-channel flagship station of the American Broadcasting Systems radio network. His repeater is also well known in that it is dedicated to public service work and is a very popular spot for communications for these kind of events.

The FCC said that it had no way to reach Krause when its engineers discovered that it was his radio system that was interfering with the air-band radio system on 243 MHz, but as the chief engineer of a radio station Krause must deal regularly with the New York City FCC Engineer Alexander Zimney. Its a safe bet that Zimney has all the telephone and FAX numbers needed to contact Bill Krause sitting in the phone book on his desk.

We can't end without mentioning what the technical problem was that lead Zimney to issue the five thousand dollar NAL. Newsline has learned that the transmitter in Krause's Spectrum Communications repeater had malfunctioned. The result was a 700 milliwatt spur that occurred only when the transmitter was key

up. That's right, 700 milliwatts and only in key up when the transmitter was not technically even on the air!

By now you must realize that there would be absolutely no way for Bill Krause or anyone else to know that the transmitter was putting out a spur unless someone notified him of the problem. Zimney could have called Krause on the phone and asked that he assist in solving the problem. Instead, the New York City FCC engineer acted in a way that has made him rather unpopular with the tri-state area's ham radio community.

Meantime, Krause filed a reply to the NAL. In it he says that at the time of the incident his repeater appeared to be operating normally. He tells the FCC that he had no reason to believe that it was producing unwanted spurs outside of the 222 MHz amateur radio band.

Nobody is saying that the unintentional interference by Krauses repeater transmitter to the 243 MHz aeronautical channel is insignificant, but there is a big question regarding the way in which the New York City FCC Field Office reacted to the situation and the level of the punitive action imposed.

The next move is up to FCC Engineer Alexander Zimney. We will keep you posted on this one.

HAM ADMITS JAMMING THE BIG MAC

Terry Van Sickle, WB5WXI has pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of willful and malicious interference to the two way radio system at a Dallas Texas Mc Donalds restaurant. Van Sickle is the former WFAA television news photographer who the FBI questioned on August 22nd after they found him parked in his van near the fast food restaurant. The FBI was attracted to the vehicle after its investigators noted a large number of antennas on it.

As previously reported, the FBI interrogated Van Sickle and a friend for about three hours before releasing them. At that time no charges had yet been brought. Van Sickle even claimed his innocence by way of an article appearing in the September 30th issue of the Dallas Observer newspaper. He even told the Observer that it is a common practice for electronic enthusiasts to talk to fast food restaurants over the radio relay food ordering systems. He said that these same radio buffs regularly post the frequencies of fast-food restaurant radio systems on computer bulletin boards and that the frequencies used by the Mc Donald's was readily accessible to almost anyone.

But on October the 27th that all changed when WB5WXI was charged by the government as being the source of the interfering signal. At a hearing, Van Sickle admitted his guilt and entered into an settlement, apparently to avoid a lengthy trial.

In the plea agreement, Van Sickle guaranteed to fully cooperate with any further investigation of the matter, to surrender all interest in the thousands of dollars worth of his two way radio equipment and computers that the government had seized as evidence in the case, and on demand of the court to submit to interviews by the United States Attorneys office regarding his ability to satisfy any fines or restitution order that might be imposed.

Van Sickle has been ordered back to court on January 12th, 1994 for sentencing. At that time he could face up to a year in prison, a fine of up to one-hundred thousand dollars or both. In addition he can be ordered to pay restitution to the Mc Donalds for any damages and loss of income that his actions may have cost the company and could also face a civil suit if Mc Donalds feels that the compensation awarded it was insufficient.

Finally, as is usually the case, the FCC will probably begin its own investigation of Van Sickle's activities. If they find him in violation of their rules he could lose any radio licenses he now holds. Van Sickle could also face thousands of dollars in additional fines as well.

PHONE OUT

This note to all of you who get the newscast by calling into our area code (805) 296-2407 automatic telephone delivery number. Please be advised that the equipment on that line will be down for maintenance from late on Tuesday November the 16th till about 01:00 Eastern Time on Monday November the 22nd. For that six day period we ask that you call area code (213) 462-0008, (708) 289-0423 or the regional newsfeed line serving your area. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this short duration of service interruption to the 805 area code line that will last less than one week.

VE TEST FEE INCREASE

The cost of getting a ham license is going up in 1994. The FCC has announced that effective January 1, 1994, the maximum allowable reimbursement fee for an amateur operator license examination will be \$5.75. That's up fifteen cents from the current \$5.60.

As before, volunteer examiners and volunteer examiner coordinators may charge examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating examinations for amateur operator licenses. The amount of any such reimbursement fee from any one examinee for any one

examination session, regardless of the number of elements administered, must not exceed the maximum allowable fee. Where the VE and the VEC both wish to be reimbursed, they must jointly decide on a fair distribution of the fee.

The ARRL VEC says that will begin charging \$5.75 after the new FCC allowable fee becomes effective and other VEC's are expected to do the same.

EARTHWINDS DELAYED

Problems with its mooring assembly has delayed the launch of the ham radio equipped Earthwinds Hilton balloon from an airfield near Reno, Nevada. Earthwinds was scheduled for a launch attempt on Saturday, November 6th at 14:00 UTC but bolts anchoring the craft failed as the top balloon was being filled with helium gas. It will now be at least six to eight weeks before another launch attempt will be made.

By way of background, the manned balloon will carry 2-meter equipment for communicating with the Amateur Radio community and the ham operators aboard the Mir space station. All communications will be conducted on 2-meters simplex, 145.55 MHz.

Earthwinds planners hope that the balloon will circumnavigate the globe at nearly 35,000 feet above and near the 45th parallel. Saturday's flight path would take the balloon from Reno, Nevada to New Mexico.

If Earthwinds ever does make it into the air and on the air, QSL cards will go via Gordon West, WB6NOA.

DOVE RETURNS TO THE AIR

After a long absence, the Dove OSCAR 17 satellite is back on the air. It is presently sending packet telemetry and short text bulletins on 145.825 MHz FM. DOVE's transmissions can be copied by anyone with a 2-meter FM receiver and a standard packet radio TNC. More work is required to get the satellite fully operational, but this is a major step in getting Dove fully back on line.

RFE LAYOFFS

Radio Free Europe will lay off more than half its employees and leave its Munich base by 1996. The headquarters for the radio services that for decades given eastern Europeans uncensored news with a decidedly anti-Communist slant will move either to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, or Washington,

D.C..

Getting down from the current annual budget of \$210 million to the \$75 million mandated by President Clinton also will mean closing the New York office and moving its research center out of Munich. These are two of the world's most expensive cities.

Radio Liberty, which broadcasts to Russia and other former Soviet republics, will be unaffected by the cuts and consolidation given the continued political instability in the region.

DX - LESOTHO

In DX, prefix hunters should note that in commemoration of the 27th anniversary of Lesotho independence, a special prefix will be used until mid November. 7P27LI will be on 14.010 to 14.025 MHz, and on 21.010 to 21.025 MHz from 10:00 hours to 14:00 hours UTC. QSL to Ray Shankweiler, Box 333, Maseru 100, Lesotho.

POSTING NEWSLINE

This note to all who are getting the printed version of Newsline by packet radio or other data postings. Over the past month we have received numerous calls from individuals who have downloaded our material from various services and who think that they need our permission to repost it to packet, use it for code practice or whatever.

The answer is that you do not need any specific permission as long as you do not change the content of the material in any way. Newsline is not mode specific. We do not care how you re-distribute it just so long as you do not add or delete anything. Leave it as it is and use it as it is.

Oh, we have no objection to your deleting the closed circuit lead message, but anything else must be retransmitted or reposted exactly as you receive it, including the closing credits and the text of any of the interviews that are a part of the newscast.

We also hope that this clarifies things for those of you who have questions. If not, please contact us by regular US mail or Electronic mail only. The cost of returning telephone calls is prohibitive.

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* For this week that is all from Newsline. You can write *
* to us at: *

* Newsline *

* P0 Box 463 *

* Pasadena, CA *

* 91102 *

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